

Why Do Men So Despise Our Lord

Isa 53:1-3 ¹ *Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?* ² *For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, and as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; and when we see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him.* ³ *He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.*

This chapter of Isaiah, chapter 53, in my humble understanding, is without doubt the most glorious, the fullest and most complete Old Testament proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Isaiah is writing approximately seven hundred years before the birth of our Savior. Yet God gave to him this wonderful revelation of the purpose and passion of the coming Redeemer. In this passage we see the most central aspect of the saving work of the promised Messiah.

We see our Savior, smitten and stricken by God. We see Him wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquity. We read of God laying on Him our sins and our guilt, and we see Jesus willing accepting this shame and disgrace as a Lamb led to the slaughter. If I may borrow the words of Dr. Piper this morning, we see, “The righteous in the place of the unrighteous. The loving shepherd in the place of the lost sheep. The exalted king in the place of the rebel subjects.”

We read here of God’s most loving and gracious provision for our salvation being drawn out in such excellent detail that we must acknowledge that since it is given 700 years before it took place, we have not only revelation, but a validation of so great a salvation. My prayer is that in the next few weeks your awareness of your unworthiness and God’s love will be imprinted deeply upon your heart and mind. Let us then consider this morning the following; 1. The question that demands careful thought. 2. A humility that exemplifies an unseen beauty. 3. The response of man that raises a perplexing question that demands an answer.

- A. The question that demands careful thought - Who has believed our report? And to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed?
 - 1. He is not simply asking who will believe what he has written about, but who will believe the witness of the whole of the writings of the Old Testament.
 - a. Note, not singular “my” announcement, but in the plural “our” proclamation concerning the coming Messiah.
 - b. We have the witness of Jesus Himself that His life and ministry is revealed throughout the whole of the Old Testament.

Luke 24:27 And ***beginning at Moses and all the Prophets***, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

- c. Though it was not fully clear and plain to the Old Testament prophets yet were aware of a coming Messiah.

1 Peter 1:10-12 *Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven — things which angels desire to look into.*

- a. When he asks who will believe? It is as if he were asking why won’t men receive this message of such love?
 - b. We could ask the same question today, why won’t men receive this glorious announcement of salvation?

2. Thus we see the necessity of electing grace. - To Whom has the arm of the Lord **been revealed**

Dr Young - "passage clearly teaches that **faith is a gift of God** and not a work of man's unaided power. It also teaches that unless God manifests His power, man will not be converted."

- a. Two clear reasons why men ought to have believed.
 - 1) The prophetic proclamations by the prophets of old concerning the coming Christ and the fulfillment of those prophecies
 - 2) The miracles that Christ performed
- b. But men cannot and will not come without the quickening the power of God's grace.
- c. Christ proclaimed this truth

John 6:44 No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him;

- d. John presented the rebellious attitude of his day as the fulfilling of Isaiah's prophetic proclamation

John 12:37-38 But although He had done so many signs before them, they did not believe in Him, that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spoke: "Lord, who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?"

Isa 55:1-2 And you who have no money, Come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend money for what is not bread, and your wages for what does not satisfy?

- B. A humility that exemplifies an unseen beauty - *For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, and as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; and when we see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him.*
1. Maybe it was the content of this revelation that caused Isaiah to ask; who would receive a Messiah who would come in such humility and dishonor? - *a tender plant, and as a root out of dry ground?*
 - a. The Messiah would spring David's lineage as from a decayed ancient family
 - b. As from the stump of a tree that is fallen down
 - c. There would be no glorious external appearance
 - d. Nothing that would attract attention, or meet the expectations of the nation.
 - e. Literally like a root out of a dry desert ground
 2. This promised king, the son of David, should come in great pomp, glory and majestic beauty
 - a. Born in a stable?
 - b. Son of a carpenter? - as was supposed
 - c. From Nazareth and not from the city of David?
 3. To the natural man there was no beauty or glory that they should desire Him.

CONCLUSION - What is the greatest beauty you see in Christ this morning?

Is it not . . .

That God the Son would willingly leave the glories of heaven above?

That He would, in great love, take upon Himself your sin and bear the penalty of your sin in your place?

Truly a beauty disguised in the deepest loving humility one could ever desire.